



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

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## U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Explanation of Significant Differences Superfund Fact Sheet

**Escambia Treating Company Site**  
Escambia County, Florida

June 2004

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*The purpose of this fact sheet is to notify the public of a change that has been made to the Interim ROD for this site. Documents used by EPA in this decision are available for review locally in the administrative record at the:*

**West Florida Regional Library  
200 West Gregory Street  
Pensacola, Florida 32501  
(850) 435-1763**

*and the EPA's office in Atlanta. Since this is not a fundamental change to the remedy, the Agency has not established a formal comment period.*

### Introduction

The purpose of this Explanation of Significant Difference (ESD) is to notify the public of a specific change that has been made to a component of the remedy selected by the Region 4 Office of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the Escambia Treating Company Superfund Site ("the site"). EPA has made this change in consultation with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Although this change represents a significant modification to the remedy previously selected by EPA, it is still fundamentally consistent with the remedy selected for this site.

This ESD is being issued in fact sheet format in accordance with Section 117(c) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), and Section 300.435(c)(2)(I) of the National Contingency Plan (NCP).

### Background

The site operated as a wood treating facility from 1942 to 1982. The site is located in a mixed industrial and residential area of the City of Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. During the facility operations, soil and groundwater became contaminated with creosote and pentachlorophenol (PCP). Dioxin contamination is also found in site soil, and is a common impurity in PCP.

In 1992, EPA completed an extensive removal action, the purpose of which was to address the immediate threat posed by contamination at the site. EPA installed a 12-foot high fence to restrict unauthorized access, then excavated approximately 255,000 cubic yards (CY) of contaminated soil. The soil is currently stockpiled under a secure cover to prevent further migration of contaminants into the groundwater.

In 1994, EPA began a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the site to investigate the nature and extent of contamination and to develop and evaluate remedial alternatives. Sampling of adjacent residential areas were conducted as part of the RI/FS in 1995.

Based upon information collected during the RI/FS, EPA issued an Interim Record of Decision (IROD) on February 12, 1997. Major components of the 1997 IROD call for government purchase of certain properties, followed by permanent relocation of impacted residents. It was anticipated that after the final remedial action, the area would be dedicated to industrial or commercial.

EPA began implementation of the 1997 IROD in August 1997, and the last resident was relocated in 2003. In April 1998, the scope of the 1997 IROD was modified through an ESD to add site maintenance of the on-site stockpile cover and landscaping. In October

2003, EPA approved sampling work plans for additional characterization of the ground water and soil associated with the site. In February 2004, Phase I of the demolition of abandoned homes was completed. Phase I demolition was a joint effort between EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Escambia County and the City of Pensacola. A total of 45 single-family residential structures were demolished and the debris was transported to the Gulf View Landfill in Escambia County for disposal. The remaining residential structures will be demolished in a similar fashion during Phase II.

### **Explanation of Significant Difference**

The purpose of this ESD is to modify the 1997 IROD to allow the excavation of contaminated soil encountered during Phase II demolition. Any soil in the residential areas impacted by site-related contaminants above FDEP soil clean-up target levels for residential and/or commercial use, will be excavated. The soil will be transported to the on-site stockpile, and placed under the existing engineered cover. The volume of off-site soil included in this change is expected to be relatively small, therefore, no significant modification to the engineered cover is anticipated. This action is necessary in order to complete the demolition of the remaining residential dwelling units and protect human health and the environment.

### **Support Agency Comments**

EPA consulted with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on substantive requirements for this change and FDEP concurs with the proposed modifications.

### **Statutory Determination**

Considering the new information that has been developed and the changes that have been made to the selected remedy, EPA and FDEP believe that the remedy will remain protective of human health and the environment, will comply with Federal and State requirements that are applicable or relevant and appropriate to this remedial action, and be cost effective. In addition, the revised remedy uses permanent solutions to the maximum extent practicable for this site.

### **Technical Assistance Grant**

The Citizens Against Toxic Exposures (CATE) has been awarded a Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) for the Escambia Treating Company Superfund Site to enable the community to hire experts to help interpret and comment on EPA reports. For more information call:

**Margaret Williams, President, CATE**  
**(850) 436-7557**

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The Administrative Record for this site contains the information upon which the remedy selection was based, including the National Relocation Interim Record of Decision (ROD), and the Responsiveness Summary.

***For more information, please contact...***

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